A Wonderful *Cry* from the *Country*;

OR THE

Wonder of Wonders.

Being a true and more perfect

ACCOUNT

OF THE LATE GREAT

FLOODS,

AND EXTRAORDINARY

DAMAGES

Thereby Occasioned throughout

ENGLAND.

As the Carrying away of Houses, Mills, and Bridges, the Drowning of several Persons, with Multitudes of Cattel, and particularly Nine Carryers Wagons with all their Horses and Goods, Lost on the Roads to *London*, by the Extraordinary Waters.

As also the Miraculous Preservation of a Child near *Newark*, Carried about Two Miles in a Cradle by the Overflowing of the River *Trent*, and yet taken up Alive.

When God, whose Mighty Power none can withstand,
For Sin, O'rewhelms with Raging Floods the Land:
T'appease his Wrath, and stop deserved Fears,
May our Souls Float in true Repentant Tears.

London, Printed in the Year, 1674.

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OR THE

Wonder of Wonders.

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ACCOUNT

OF THE LATE GREAT

FLOODS,

AND EXTRAORDINARY

DRAUGHTS.

A Cry *from the* Country, *or the Late Wonderful Floods, and the Lamentable Damages thereby done throughout* England. *&c.*

BEing desired by several Worthy Friends; to make Publick a brief Narrative of the Late Extraordinary Floods, and the great Mischief thereby done in most parts of the Nation, to awaken, if possible, the stupid Spirits of Men by the Relation of the Threatnings and Chastisements of Providence therein manifested, from that sinful Lethargy which brings down such several Judgments on our guilty Heads; We have Endeavourred to Inform our selves by the best means we could in that particular. And find as follows:

First, In the *West*, that is to say, *Devonshire*, *Cornwal*, *Wiltshire*, &c. There have happened for the space of Six Weeks last past, Mighty and almost Continual Rains, whence the Floods grew so Great, that about *Tiverton*, several Hay-ricks, Barns, Out-Houses, and some Dwelling-Houses, were Swept away with their Violence; many Cattel, especially Sheep, were Drowned in the Low-Lands, and several Persons Lost that endeavoured to preserve them: Many eminent Bridges in those parts, as at *Weynel*, *Salverton*, and *Umpton*, were Carried away; and the Corn which was general come up very well, by the excessive Rains washt out of the Ground; all Commerce almost for the present Obstructed, for that People could not Repair to the Markets, without danger of their Lives: By reason whereof, Corn of a Sudden is generally Risen in the *West* to Eight or Nine Shillings a Bushel.

Nor have the *Northern* parts Escaped better, as by the Two following Letters sent to Credible persons in *London* may Appear: The Latter whereof does also Afford us a Rare Example of the Miraculous preservation of an Infant; for which cause we shall Insert them both *Verbatim*: The first being a Letter from *Brigg*, in *Lincolnshire*, Dated the 15*th*. of this Instant *January*: As follows,

Sir,

I Could not Write to you ſooner, for the Water has been exceſſive High round us, that no Carriers could paſs, and the Bearer who now Ventures, will Run a great Hazard with his Horſes, and be forced to go far about in many places. The River *Humber* has overflow'd all the Country adjacent, up towards *Sherborn*, and almoſt as far as *Leeds*, and ſwept away ſeveral Bridges and Mills over ſmall Rivers that fall into it. The eldeſt man living hereabouts, never knew ſo wet a time, and of ſo long continuance: Corn Riſes very extreamly by reaſon hereof, being much damnified here; and (as we are informed) in moſt other places, nor do our Sheep eſcape, but dye now in great numbers of the Rot, by reaſon of this wet Weather; poor *England* has ſmarted ſeverely with a dreadful Peſtilence; a lamentable Fire, and no ſmall Calamities of War. Oh! may the merciful hand of Providence preſerve us now from Famine, *&c.*

Your Loving Friend,
T. R.

Since theſe, we Received the two following Letters: One from Downham *in* Norfolk. *Thus:*

Cozen,

IN my laſt, I gave you ſome Account of great Rains that had happened of late here, but now we have far greater Floods then before; The Tydes coming in, meeting with vaſt Landfloods, have ſwel'd all our Rivers ſo high, that they ſcorn the Ancient Confinement of their Banks, and Run with an Enfranchiz'd Current over our Grounds, with as much violence and impetuoſity, as a Vulgar Rabble, getting to a Head in a Seditious Tumult, when they bare down all Laws before them, and mad, for they know not what will be kept within Bounds of Reaſon or Moderation. Sure I am this unwelcome Inroad of Waters, makes us very apprehenſive of a thin Harveſt: We wait with a longing Impatience to hear ſome Reſults from that *Illuſtrious Great Councel*, now Convened, when they pleaſe to make any thing publick, pray fail not to make your Countrey Friends happy with an Importment. May the All Powerful God, put a Period to this unſeaſonable Weather; Baniſh all Clouds from our Horizon: Bleſs that Honourable Aſſembly in their Counſels and proceedings, for the Honour of his Majeſty, and the Welfare of the Nation, and keep in his

his Love and Protection, your ſelf and Family, together with,

Your moſt Affectionate Kinſman,
G. H.

The other from a Gentlemans Bailey in VVorceſterſhire, *to his Maſter in* London.

Honoured Sir,

ACcording to your Commands in your laſt, by Mr. *T. G.* VVherein you order me to give an Account, How your Concerns ſtand, and whether the late wet Seaſon hath done you any Damage; I muſt with ſorrow acquaint, That you are like to receive very conſiderable prejudice by it, both in Relation to your Cattel and Corn; for of the three hundred and fifty Sheep you left, when you went up to *London*; notwithſtanding all the care could poſſibly be taken, or means uſed, I cannot aſſure you that there are fifty remaining Sound. But, Sir! this Sad Affliction hath not lighted only upon you, all your Neighbours, and the Country round, have ſhared in the late miſhap; and tis feared it is a National Calamity. The VVaters are very exceeding High, and ſo have continued ſeveral VVeeks, for as ſoon as one Flood begins to Ebb, or Abate, the Clouds pour down more Rain; and Reinforce the Deluge with freſh Inundations. The Corn was generally come up very well, but 'tis wiſhed now it were not ſo forward; for 'tis much feared, it will be quite ſpoild with thoſe Inordinate Rains. I was in Obedience to your Command, to wait on Sir *J. K.* who Ordered me to acquaint you, *&c.*

Your moſt Faithful, &c.

The Second from Newark; *Dated two days ſince in theſe words:*

Honoured Uncle:

I Remember to have heard you often ſpeak, that in the late unhappy Wars, you had a Command in the Royal Service, when our Town *Newark* was Beſieged; and truly the ſame has for ſome time of late been, and ſtill continues in a Beſieged poſture. But 'tis onely by the Rebellion of the River *Trent*, which for ſome weeks has committed ſuch Out-rages in theſe parts, as can hardly be expreſt, and will not eaſily be believed: Several great numbers of Cat-

tel

tel having been destroyed, and the Country round laid under Water; I my self having the ill-luck, by the negligence of a slothful Servant, to loose Eleven Bullocks, and above twenty Sheep. But above all, one accident has happened near us last Week, which we must call a Miracle of Mercy; and for the rarity of the thing I cannot but Relate it to you; About two Miles from hence, one *James Diggs* a Labouring man, Dwelt in a small New Erected Cottage, about half a Mile from the River side, having only a Wife and one small Suckling Child, This House was quite Surrounded with the Flood, which it seems came so furiously that it bore it quite away before it, being very slightly Built only with Loam VValls, and covered with Thatch, The Man and the VVoman no doubt perished; but the little Infant being in a large VVodden Cradle floated, being driven with the Current of the VVater above two Miles; and was taken up by a Country man, going down to fetch some Catte up from the Low Grounds, alive, but was extraordinary VVet, and is since put out to Nurse, and like to do well: The Bodies of its Parents are not yet found. This Sir! though seemingly incredible, I can assure you is really True upon my own Knowledge; All our Traffick round is by Boats: The Lord in Mercy cease this unseasonable Weather: the Country has suffered, and is like still to do so extreamly by it: I intend God willing, when the VVaters are down, and the Roads passable to make a Journey up to *London*, having some business with my Landlord, Esquire *E.* In the mean time as ever, I Rest,

Your most Affectionate Kinsman,
and Humble Servant, F. S.

To these Testimonies from the North, *we may add our Intelligence from* Kent, *in the following Letter from* Town-Malling, &c.

Taken out of a Letter from Town-Malling *in* Kent. *Dated the 19th. of the 11th. Moneth called,* January.

John C.

I Had some thoughts of seeing thee in *London* before this time, but plainly the Weather has been so bad for many days, That I did not think it convenient to take a Journey. VVe have had continual Rains for some time, and higher Floods than any I can remember

memberd to have seen: All along almost from *Tunbridge* to *Maidstone*, the River has overflow'd its Banks, and that further than ordinary: 'Tis thought that Corn on the Ground will receive much prejudice hereby; so that VVheat is already raised by People in its price pretty much, in several Markets near us: Some Friends lately come from *Chichester*, into these parts say, That the VVaters are thereabouts very much broken out likewise, and have done hurt in several parts of *Sussex* bearing away Bridges and Cattel sometimes; And we hear the like from other places, So that tis feared the thing may be pretty General, and cause a Scarcity of Bread and other Provisions for the Sustenance of Man: Certainly the Lord hath a Controversie with sin, and since Pride and fulness of Bread, have been Sins so rife amongst the People, they cannot but acknowledge it Just, if now they are Afflicted with Poverty, and Leanness of Teeth, *&c.*

S. K.

But least any should suspect the Veracity of this Narrative, because it hath hitherto consisted of Instances remote, we may now Recount the Disasters neares hand: The River of *Thames* has not been known so full of VVater in the Memory of Man, the Freshes or Land-waters coming down in such abundance and so strong'ly, that the Tyde for several days, could never come higher than *London Bridge*, and most of the small Towns *Westward*, Scituate on the River, were overflow'd: *Kingstone Watermen*, going home, Rowed in several p'aces, above a Mile and a half off from the *Thames*, passing c'everly over the Meadows and Fences at that distance: So exceedingly were the Waters out. At *Kingstone*, Boats Rowed frequently through the Streets of the Town, and there were scarce twenty Houses in the whole Town, but what were over-flown; Boats with five hundred weight Burden, came up to the Castle Inne Door: and the poor People, were forced to go fetch all their Necessaries: as, Bread, Beer, *&c.* at their Neighbours Houses in Boats.

Between *Stains* and *Egham*, the great Cawsey over which the Waggons and Travellers used to pass, is quite broken down, so that no Carts nor Horses can pass near that way now; For all the Meadows lie under Water, and the *Thames* rushes in with as much

Fury

Fury, as at half Ebb at *London-Bridg*. VVe cannot mention this Town of *Eyham*, without the Honour due to it: For in these Meads now Overflown, it was the grand Charter of our English Liberties, commonly called *Magna Charta*, after a Desperate and Tedious VVar, and vast Expence of Blood and Treasure, was at last Ratified and Confirmed by King *H.* 3.

The VVater run over the Bridg at *Kingston*, and it was in great danger of being Carried away; which unhappy *Fate* (as 'tis Reported) *Staines* Bridg has Suffered: This is certain, the Barges for many days have not dared to pass, as not being able to see or avoid the Banks, which are now all covered with VVater.

As for the sad Losses of Country Carriers, Clothiers, *&c.* every Inn can furnish you with too many Deplorable Disasters, some have been forced to Lie a week together on the Road at a place, others more Bold but less Discreet, have unadvisedly ventured to go on, and Lost all their Horses, and some of them their Lives: Insomuch that we have it from Credible persons that 'tis already known, that no less then Nine VVaggons, Horses, and all together, with most of the Men, and some Passengers, have been Cast away in their Journeys towards *London* within this Three weeks.

Much more we might Relate, but we hope this may be enough to Affect the Reader, and make him Reflect a little on the fatal Consequences threatned by these most Immoderate floods, thus violently destroying the *Fruits* of the Earth, Ruining particular *Families*, and Obstructing publick Commerce amongst our Selves; or rather to awaken him to *Hear the Rod, and Who hath appointed it*. To consider whence and for what God thus Afflicts us, that so the Meditation hereof may better prepare and dispose our Hearts for the devout Observation of that General Fast, and Day of Humiliation, which the pious Prudence of our Superiours has Appointed shortly to be kept and Solemnized. In brief, to warn us all to amend our Lives, abandon our Sins, flie to God for pardon, and beg of his Mercy to put a stop to this unseasonable VVeather, and all other Judgments that may Impend.

When God Decrees such dreadful Floods their Birth,
'Tis sure to Raise the Sin-polnted Earth.

FINIS.